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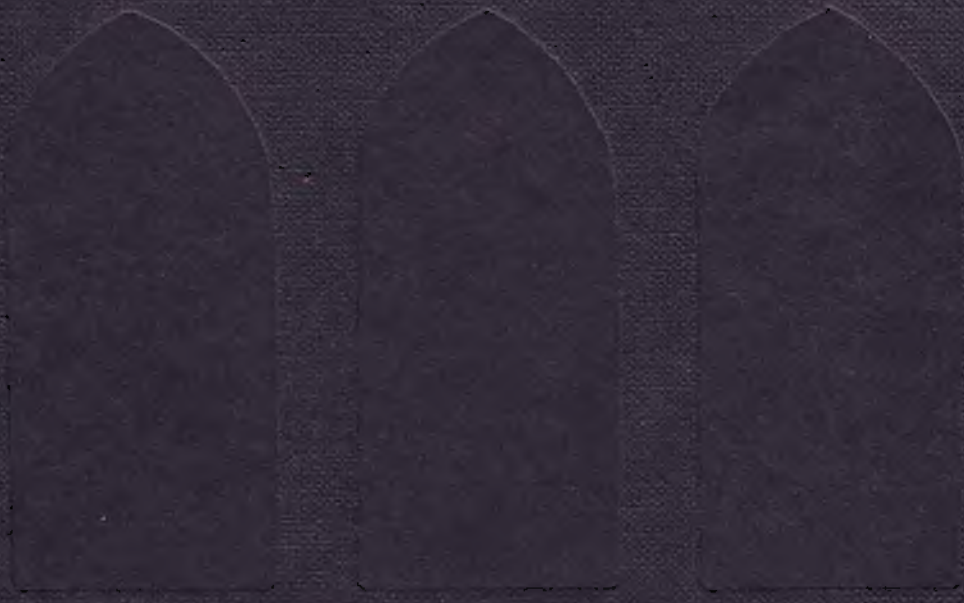
The MYSTERY PLAY

GRANT MORRISON & JON J MUTH



The MYSTERY PLAY

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A GRAPHIC NOVEL

Written by
GRANT MORRISON

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Lettered by
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1994

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, the English Mystery Play cycles were performed in celebration of the Christian Story, from Creation to Doomsday. Whole villages took part in the staging of these epic dramas before growing secularization saw their decline and disappearance.

Now in an attempt to recreate the spirit of those medieval plays in an effort to reaffirm community spirit in the face of growing anxiety and social decay, a small English town stages its own production of the Mystery Plays. When the actor playing God is brutally murdered, however, old patterns and prejudices come to the surface and 'Lucifer' is accused of the crime. Skeletons emerge from their closets as the ensuing atmosphere of accusation and suspicion threatens to tear the town apart. Into this turmoil comes Detective Sergeant Frank Carpenter, a man who is not what he seems, a man who is searching for far more than simply the identity of a killer. And as the shadows of his past begin to catch up with him, the detective is caught in a desperate race to unlock the secret of the town's redemption and his own.

The Mystery Play is a tense psychological thriller, a descent into a hallucinatory world of guilt and sacrifice, of judgment and retribution.

DC Comics New York, NY

Paul McGuigan

*Grant Morrison is the author of numerous acclaimed graphic novels and comics series – **Batman: Arkham Asylum, Animal Man, Doom Patrol, St. Swithin's Day, The New Adventures of Hitler, Sebastian O** and many others. He is also an award-winning playwright. Feared by men, loved by women, he's back, deadlier than ever.*

*His current projects include **Kill Your Boyfriend** and **Bizarre Boys** and the monthly series **The Invisibles**, all for Vertigo. He lives in Glasgow, Scotland and On the Road.*

He loves only gold.

Julianna Muth

*Jon J Muth's graphic novels include **Moonshadow, Dracula–A Symphony in Moonlight and Nightmares, Havok & Wolverine: Meltdown, The Mythology of an Abandoned City,** and **M. Vanitas**, a collection of his paintings and aphorisms, was published in 1991. He is currently working on his third one-man exhibition as well as Stanislaw Lem's **The Star Diaries**. He lives in Marbletown, New York with his wife and son.*

He does not give much weight to the second law of thermodynamics.

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AAAAAAAAAUUUUUUUUUUU

I am the Alpha and Omega, first and most famous. It is my will it should be so. It is, it was, it shall be thus.
I am great God gracious, which never had beginning.
Now Lucifer and Lightburne, look lowly you be attending! The blessing of my benignity I give to my first operation. For craft nor for cunning cast never comprehending, Exalt you not to excellency in no high exaltation.
Above great God I will me guide, and set myself here as is my right: I am peerless and a Prince of Pride, For God himself shines not so bright.
And I am next of same degree, Replete by all experience; Methink if I might sit by thee, All heaven should do me reverence.

Alas! Why make you this great offense? Both Lucifer and Lightburne, to you I say: You have begun a perilous play. You shall well know the consequence, This dance will turn to your dismay
I charge you all, do me reverence. That am replete with heavenly grace.
Though God come here, I will not hence. But sit right here before his face.
I made thee Angel and Lucifer, And here thou would be Lord over all!

Therefore I charge this order clear.
Fast from this place look that ye fall!
EXCUSE ME.

MR. PURVES? MR MAYOR?
I WONDER IF I COULD ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.
YES?
WHAT S IT? I... AH...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, MR PURVES I WANTED TO ASK A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PLAYS, FOR THE GUARDIAN
WHAT WAS BEHIND THE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO STAGE THIS REVIVAL OF THE MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAY CYCLE?
AH, YES... WELL, IN THE PAST, OF COURSE, TOWNELY HAD A STRONG TRADITION, A VERY STRONG TRADITION, OF PARTICIPATION IN THE YORKSHIRE CYCLES
THE WHOLE COMMUNITY INVOLVED ITSELF IN THE STAGING OF THE PLAYS, AND THAT'S THE SORT OF SPIRIT WE WANTED TO RECAPTURE HERE
IN OUR CURRENT CLIMATE OF RECESSION AND UNEMPLOYMENT, I FELT THAT BY REVIVING THESE MARVELOUS OLD BIBLE STORIES, WE COULD REAFFIRM THE IDENTITY OF THE TOWN AND RAISE SOME MEDIA INTEREST IN ITS...
YES, BUT HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO ACCUSATIONS THAT THE WHOLE THING HAS BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO WHITEWASH YOUR REPUTATION IN THE RUN-UP TO THE FORTHCOMING LOCAL ELECTIONS?
WHAT?
I THINK THAT'S RATHER UNFAIR, YOUNG LADY..
I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO..
THAT'S ENOUGH COME ON, ON YOUR WAY, LOVE.
THE MAYOR HASN'T GOT TIME TO ANSWER ANY MORE QUESTIONS.
Full soon I shall do change your cheer, For your foul pride to Hell you shall

Lucifer, I made thee my friend, thou art my foe! Above all angels there were no more That sat so nigh my majesty.
I charge you fall till I bid "No!"
To the Pit of Hell, forevermore to be!
EEEEEE EEEEEE!

YOU WIPED THE SMILE OFF MR PURVES' FACE, D.DN'T YOU, ANNIE? RUINED MY LOVELY PICTURE.
WHY ARE YOU CHASING HIM, WHEN YOU COULD BE CHASING ME?
THE WHOLE COUNCIL'S RIDDLED WITH CORRUPTION AND BACKHANDERS AND YOU KNOW IT.
PURVES MANAGED TO WALK AWAY FROM A SEX SCANDAL AND NOBODY SEEMS TO GIVE A DAMN.
EXCEPT YOU, EH? OR DO YOU JUST GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ADVANCING YOUR PRECIOUS CAREER?
I KNOW YOU WANT THAT BIG STORY THAT'LL GET YOU OFF THIS LITTLE PROVINCIAL PAPER, BUT TAKE MY ADVICE, LOVE GIVING THE MAYOR A HARD TIME WON'T GET YOU ANYTHING BUT TROUBLE
Sir-
MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL, TONY, AND GET US A HOT DOG, WILL YOU?
Rise up Adam.

Wake to life
Here have I formed thee a wife. Her to thee thou shall take. And name her as thy pleasure
I see well, Lord, through thy grace. Bone of my bone thou her made. And flesh of my flesh she has. And my shape by thy command
Therefore Man kindly shall forsake, Father and Mother, and to Wife take, Two in one flesh as thou can make, Each the other for to enliven
Out, out! What sorrow is this that I have lost so much bliss? For once I thought to do amiss, out of Heaven I fell
DON'T SAY I'M NOT GOOD TO YOU
AND IF YOU WANT SOMETHING HOTTER, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
IN THE GUTTER ON A FRIDAY NIGHT, TONY
Should such a wretch made out of clay have such bliss?
I shall teach his wife a play and I may have a while for her deceive.
I hope I may through her bring them both awry

Alas, such harm wrought by the snake Alas! Her bad advice That I did take. Naked are we both therefore. And of our shape ashamed.
Therewith my members I will hide, And under this tree I will abide. For certainly shall come God us beside. And out of this Eden shall we be.
Lord²

LORD?
DAD?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WHERE'S GOD?
SHHH!
UH-OH. MUCH D'YOU BET OLD DOC BELL'S BLIND DRUNK ROUND THE BACK?
EITHER THAT OR THEY'VE DECIDED TO PUT ON "WAITING FOR GODOT" INSTEAD...
NO
SOMETHING'S WRONG
EEEE EEEEEE EEEE!

WHAT'S HAPPENED?
SOMEBODY! QUICKLY!
CALL THE POLICE!
I THINK HE'S DEAD
GOD'S DEAD.

The MYSTERY PLAY

DETECTIVE SERGEANT FRANK CARPENTER
MANCHESTER CID.
NOT MUCH LEFT TO SEE, S.I.R. LAB BOYS TOOK THE BODY AWAY A FEW HOURS AGO
THAT'S FINE CONSTABLE
I JUST WANT TO SEE WHERE IT HAPPENED

GOT SOMETHING THERE, SIR?
I THOUGHT WE'D BEEN OVER THIS PLACE WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB.
IT'S NOTHING
A BURNT-OUT FIREWORK
WHERE HAVE THEY TAKEN THE BODY?
DOWN THE STATION, I THINK
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE I'LL GET ONE OF OUR LADS TO RUN YOU DOWN THERE, IF YOU LIKE
THANKS

NOT EVERY DAY ONE HAS GOD ON THE SLAB, EH?
I'M AFRAID I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN AND THERE'S NOT A GREAT DEAL I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU AT THIS STAGE, UM...
DETECTIVE SERGEANT CARPENTER

DETECTIVE SERGEANT CARPENTER, YES
IT'S RATHER LIKE OPENING UP A WATCH. ALL THOSE LITTLE COGS AND WHEELS.
I THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE PROBLEMS OF MEDICINE, OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL, I SUPPOSE, YOU TEND TO SEE PEOPLE AND THINGS AS... WELL, AS A COLLECTION OF BITS AND PIECES, NOT AS A WHOLE
I'M NOT CONVINCED IT'S THE BEST APPROACH
OH, BUT SURELY THE ART OF DETECTION IS EXACTLY THE SAME
ISN'T IT YOUR JOB TO "TAKE EVENTS APART" IN ORDER TO COMPREHEND THINGS, IT'S ALWAYS NECESSARY TO REDUCE THEM TO THEIR COMPONENT PARTS

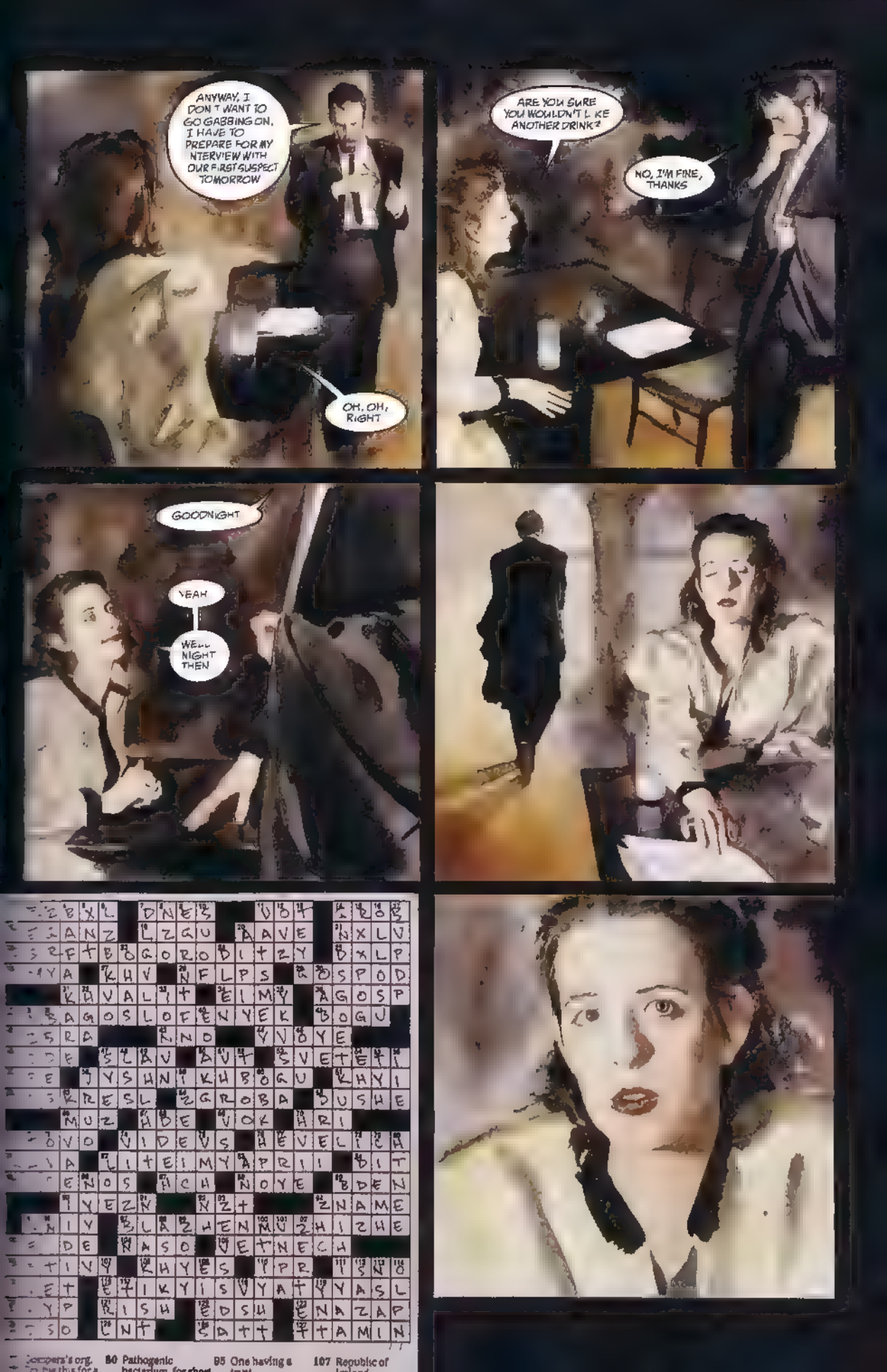
"GOD S N THE DETAILS," AFTER ALL
OR N THIS CASE, PERHAPS, THE DETA.LS ARE IN GOD
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETH NG, DOCTOR I'M STAYING AT THE KING'S HOTEL.
CARPENTER

CAN I HELP YOU?
I JUST WONDERED WHAT YOU WERE DOING
I WAS PASSING
RECENTLY, I DISCOVERED WHY IT IS THAT CHILDREN ARE AFRAID OF COATS HUNG ON DOORS
THERE IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT ABOUT A COAT WHEN IT IS NOT BEING WORN, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
SOMETHING... WHAT WOULD BE THE WORD? UNNATURAL. I HAVE BEEN LED TO ASK... DISTURBING QUESTIONS
WASN'T IT YEATS WHO WROTE, "FIFTEEN APPARITIONS I HAVE SEEN, THE WORST, A COAT UPON A COATHANGER"?
HE WAS AN OCCULTIST, OF COURSE HE UNDERSTOOD ONLY PART OF IT.
WE MUST... PROTECT OUR CHILDREN
YES

HELLO?
HI.
YOU'RE THE DETECTIVE FROM MANCHESTER, AREN'T YOU?
CARPENTER, YES.
I'M ANNIE WOOLF HI
I WORK FOR THE LOCAL PAPER HERE, THE TOWNELY GUARDIAN
YOU'VE GOT THE LATEST ISSUE THERE

MIND IF I SIT DOWN?
GO AHEAD.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL YOU. THE LOCAL POLICE WILL BE MAKING A STATEMENT...
I'M NOT ANGLING FOR INFORMATION. I JUST WANTED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
WHAT D'YOU THINK OF THE PAPER? NOT BAD, IS IT? FOR A SMALL PAPER, I MEAN. IT COMES OUT WEEKLY.
I HAVEN'T READ IT. I'VE BEEN DOING THE CROSSWORD.
THAT'S A VERY "DETECTIVE" SORT OF THING TO DO, ISN'T IT? PUZZLES, CLUES...
IS IT? I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT OF THAT. I'M INTERESTED IN WORDS, THAT'S ALL. THIS IS A GOOD CROSSWORD. IT'S CLEVER AND COMPLEX.
COLONEL HARBAGE'LL BE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT. HE MAKES UP THE CROSSWORD EVERY WEEK.
DOES THE BRIDGE SECTION, TOO.
I SUPPOSE AFTER ONE OF HIS CROSSWORDS A MURDER WON'T BE TOO HARD TO SOLVE.

I FOUND THIS BEHIND THE STAGE IT'S A SPENT FIREWORK A CATHERINE WHEEL
NAMED AFTER ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA. THEY TRIED TO BREAK HER BODY ON A SPIKED WHEEL BUT IT FELL APART. SHE WAS BEHEADED IN THE END.
MILK, NOT BLOOD, FLOWED FROM HER VEINS
I THINK EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE VICINITY OF A MURDER HAS SOME SIGNIFICANCE: THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS, THE SHAPE OF THE CLOUDS, THE POSITIONS OF THE STARS, ITEMS DISCARDED BY PASSERSBY. NOTHING CAN BE OVERLOOKED.
IF I FIND A MATCH, I HAVE TO KNOW WHERE IT WAS MADE AND FROM WHAT TREE ITS WOOD WAS TAKEN.
NOTHING HAPPENS IN A VACUUM. WHEN THINGS ARE ISOLATED, THEY LOSE THEIR MEANING
SCIENCE IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THE UNIVERSE EXISTS AS A VAST NETWORK OF INTERDEPENDENT CONNECTIONS. THE SMALLEST PART AFFECTS THE LARGEST.
MM. RIGHT
I'M NOT SURE...
I DON'T WANT TO EXAMINE THE SMASHED PIECES OF AN EVENT, YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN? FRAGMENTS ARE NO GOOD TO ME
I WANT TO SEE IT WHOLE, IN RELATION TO EVERYTHING AROUND IT ONLY THEN DOES ITS MEANING BECOME APPARENT

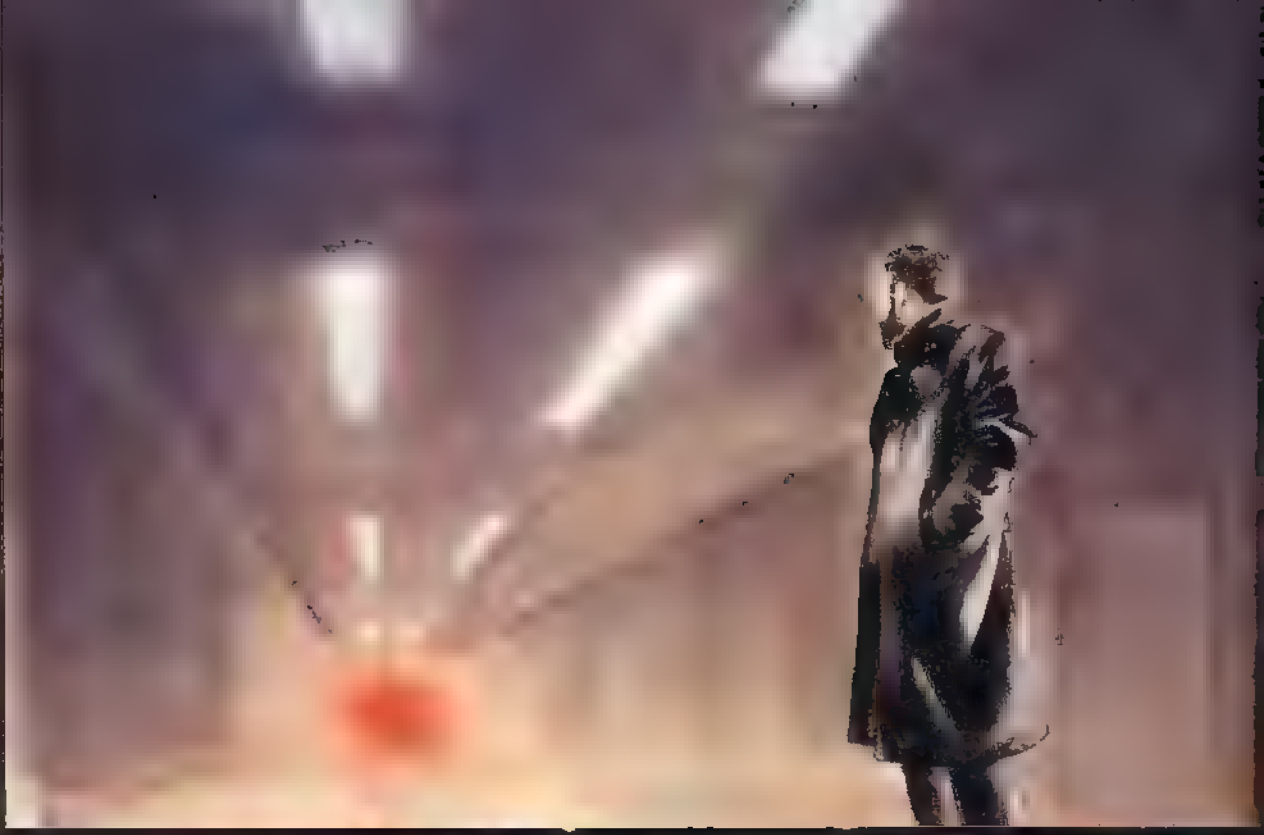

ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT TO GO GABBING ON. I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR MY INTERVIEW WITH OUR FIRST SUSPECT TOMORROW
OH, OH, RIGHT
ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ANOTHER DRINK?
NO, I'M FINE, THANKS
GOODNIGHT
YEAH
WELL NIGHT THEN
80 Pathogenic
95 One having a
107 Republic of

MM?
AH... WHAT?
WAIT A MINUTE WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
WHAT D'YOU MEAN, "SOME TIME" LAST NIGHT?
JESUS...YEAH, LOOK... GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GET DRESSED AND I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

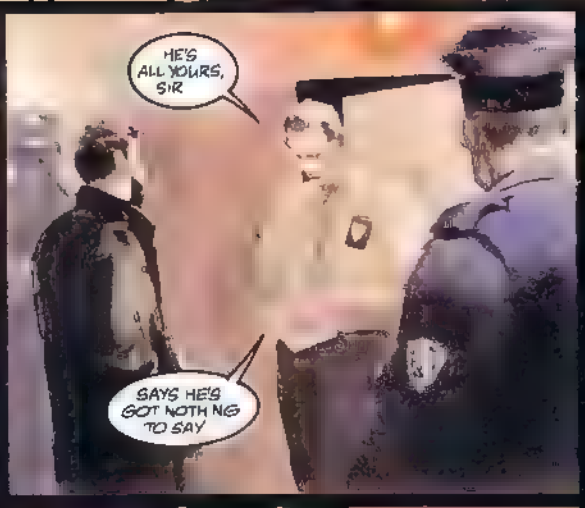
DOCTOR PROSSER WAS THE LAST PERSON TO SEE THE BODY.
THE LAB WAS EMPTY FOR MOST OF THE EVENING THE DOCTOR CAME BACK HERE AT TWO-THIRTY THIS MORNING TO COLLECT SOME NOTES
THAT'S WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT THE BODY HAD DISAPPEARED
WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED
AND ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE...
AH. 'SCUSE ME
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT COAT?
WHAT?
IT WAS LYING ON A CHAIR IN THE HALL, SIR I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S IMPORTANT BUT I THOUGHT I'D BETTER JUST PICK IT UP
I THOUGHT I'D HAND IT IN AT THE OXFAM SHOP, IF NOBODY WANTS IT, BUT IT'S IN A BIT OF A MESS.
SEE?

WE APPREC ATE YOUR TAK NG TIME OUT FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDU..E TO SPEAK TO US, DETECT..VE SERGEANT CARPENTER
I'M TOLD YOU'LL BE INTERV..EWING THE SEVERS LAD THIS AFTERNOON
YOU DON'T THINK..?
NOT AT THIS STAGE, NO
AH, WE..L THIS IS REVEREND TILLEY, BY THE WAY
VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU VERY PLEASED
REST ASSURED WE'..L MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HEL P YOU TRACK DOWN THE PERSON WHO COMMITTED THIS ATROCIOUS ACT
REVEREND.
I HEAR YOU VE DEC DED TO CONTINUE THE MYSTERY PLAY PERFORMANCES
YOU'RE GOING TO GO ON WITHOUT GOD?

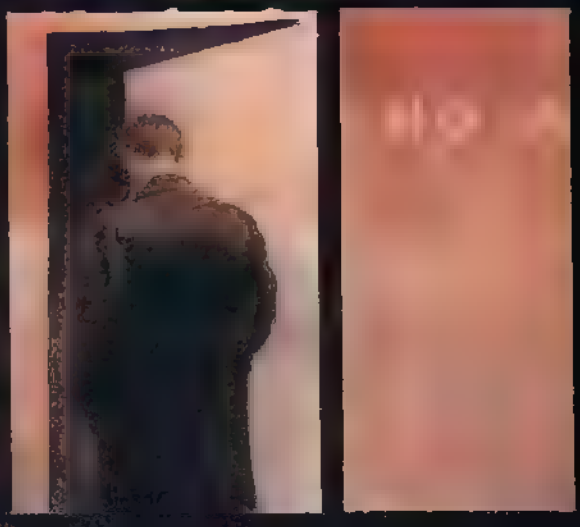
THAT'S PERHAPS A LITTLE OVERDRAMATIC, SERGEANT CARPENTER.
WE'RE HOPING TO FIND ANOTHER ACTOR WILLING TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF OUR LORD.
THE COUNCIL HAS SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY ON THIS EVENT, DETECTIVE SERGEANT CARPENTER. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE IT ALL GO TO WASTE.
I'D LIKE TO THINK THE PLAYS SYMBOLIZE THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF MAN.
AND QUITE FRANKLY, THE TOWN NEEDS THESE PLAYS
NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE A MURDERER ON THE LOOSE
WE STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH ANY KIND OF CLEAR MOTIVE
WE CAN'T BE SURE IF THIS KILLER SIMPLY WANTS TO STOP THE PERFORMANCES, OR IF HE HAS SOME OTHER INTENTION
I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT THIS IS A VERY UNUSUAL CASE.
I THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO WEIGH UP VERY CAREFULLY THE BENEFITS OF CONTINUING AGAINST THE POTENTIAL DANGERS.
I THINK WE'VE ALREADY MADE OUR CHOICE.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE ALREADY SURVIVED THE DEATH OF GOD, HAVEN'T WE?



HE'S IN THERE, SIR
HAVEN'T HAD A CHEEP OUT OF HIM SINCE WE BROUGHT HIM IN


HE'S ALL YOURS, SIR
SAYS HE'S GOT NOTHING TO SAY

WE'LL SEE



HOW YOU DOING, SEVERS?

WHAT D'YOU THINK?
PACKET OF BISCUITS AND AN ASHTRAY
I DON'T EVEN SMOKE
YOU DON'T MIND IF I DO?
IT'S NOT UP TO ME, IS IT?
YOU CAN JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER, DO I?
SUPPOSE NOT
OKAY
YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH IT AGAIN, FROM THE TOP?

CHRIST, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
I'VE TOLD THEM ALREADY I'VE TOLD THEM A MILLION TIMES!
THIS WHOLE THING'S INSANE, RIGHT? JUST BECAUSE I'M PLAYING THE PART OF THE DEVIL DOESN'T MEAN TO SAY I'M...
HRRF
HAFF
LOOK, I HATE SMOKE
ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, IS THAT IT?
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP ME HERE AND TORTURE ME UNTIL YOU GET BORED?
I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE
THERE IT'S OUT
GOOD

SO.
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
THE TRUTH
JUST THE TRUTH THAT'S ALL
I THINK YOU CAN FACE IT? REALLY?
SOMETIMES YOU TRY TO SNEAK UP ON THE TRUTH AND THEN IT JUST TURNS ROUND
AND BITES YOUR FUCKING HEAD RIGHT OFF
UH?

KNOWLEDGE CAN TEAR YOU APART, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?
HOW MUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN YOU BEAR? ARE YOU REALLY STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE KIND OF TRUTH YOU CLAIM YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR? I DON'T THINK SO.
I'M JUST... TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THINGS.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO PULL THINGS APART TO UNDERSTAND THEM, YOU KNOW? I DON'T BELIEVE IN VIVISECTION... I MEAN, THEY KILL THINGS AND BREAK THEM...
I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN NOT REALLY. IT'S ALL FANCY PERFUMED WORDS TO COVER THE STINK OF SHIT
LOOK AT YOU, YOU LITTLE PRICK! SCRABBLING IN YOUR OWN DIRT PRETENDING TO LOOK FOR "MEANING."
NO THAT CAN'T BE IT.
THERE IS AN ORDER TO THINGS. PERHAPS WE CAN'T ALWAYS SEE IT BUT IT'S THERE SOMETIMES WE STRAY BUT THE PATH IS ALWAYS THERE...
THE ONLY ORDER IS THE ORDER WE IMPOSE ON THINGS WEAKER THAN OURSELVES.
YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO. I KNOW THAT YOU KNOW IT
WHAT?

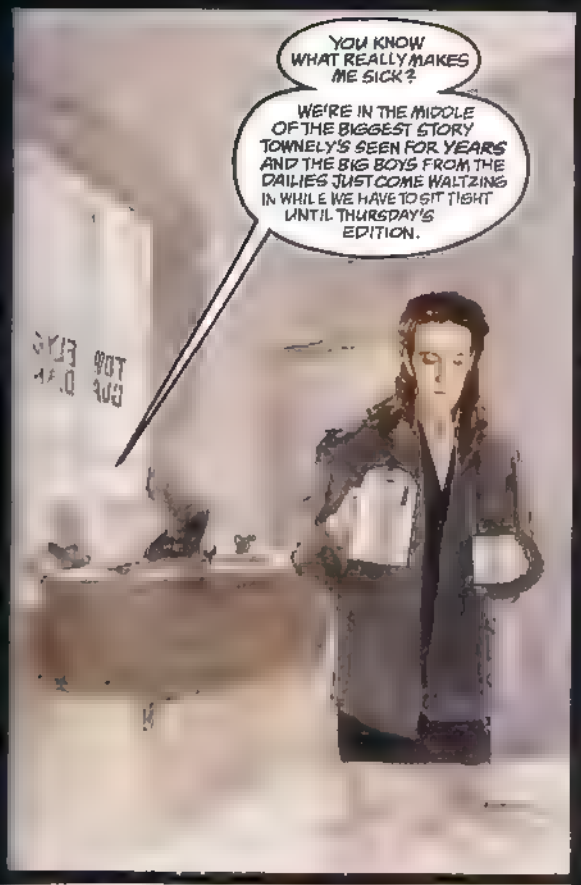
WHAT D' YOU WANT?
EXCUSE ME
WHITEWASH
WELL, JUST LOOK AT IT!
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL EVER BE ABLE TO SELL THE HOUSE, NOT NOW. NOW IT'S SPOILED
YOU SEE? WHITEWASH
YOU'RE DROWNING IN IT. FACE THE FACT THAT GOD IS DEAD AND WE ARE FREE TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT
LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME, EH?
THE NAIVE AND ROMANTIC BELIEVE THAT THE STATUE EXISTS AS POTENTIAL WITHIN THE STONE. I SAY THE SCULPTOR FORCES THE NATURAL ROCK TO SUBMIT TO HIS WILL.
THAT'S ALL YOU'RE TRYING TO DO. TWISTING EVENTS INTO A SHAPE THAT PLEASES YOU, EH?
NO
TRUTH. THAT'S ALL I WANT.
DO YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT THE TRUTH?

THEN LOOK AT ME, YOU PATHETIC SHIT!
LOOK ME IN THE EYE! YOU CAN'T HOLD ME IN! YOU HAVE TO LET ME OUT! YOU HAVE TO!
NO...I..
..AH...
THE INTERVIEW'S OVER
IT'S OVER...I..
WHAT?
BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED ME ANYTHING.
YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP ME IN HERE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME OUT OF HERE?!

POLICE
OH CHRIST
HAAAUUUR
ULLLT
CHRIST
SIR?
YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
DIZZY
NO BLOODY AIR IN THERE
ONLY WE FOUND HIM, SIR.
THERE'S A FARM TWO KIDS WERE PLAYING.
WE FOUND GOD.

GOD IN HEAVEN.
URRR
JESUS. WHAT A MESS!
GET THOSE BLOODY BRUTES AWAY FROM THE BODY! COME ON!
YAAAA! GET!
MOVE, YOU UGLY BASTARDS!
MOVE!
WE'RE NOT USED TO THIS KIND OF THING HERE.
THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE
JESUS! THE SMELL
NEVER MIND THAT GET WHAT YOU CAN OUT OF THERE

OH CHRIST HE'S IN B TS
THIS IS DISGUSTING
I CAN'T
LIKE A BUTCHER'S SHOP WINDOW!


YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY MAKES ME SICK?
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BIGGEST STORY TOWNELY'S SEEN FOR YEARS AND THE BIG BOYS FROM THE DAILIES JUST COME WALTZING IN WHILE WE HAVE TO SIT TIGHT UNTIL THURSDAY'S EDITION.

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO COMPETE? THE NEWS IS STALE AS A THREE-DAY-OLD DOG TURD BY THE TIME WE PRINT IT.
WELL, I'VE HAD A WORD WITH THE DETECTIVE WHO'S LEADING THE INVESTIGATION CARPENTER.

WHAT IF I CAN GET AN INTERVIEW?
WE CAN GO IN DEPTH IN A WAY THAT THE DAILIES CAN'T
WHAT D'YOU RECKON?

NO HARM TRYING.
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, SEE IF HE'S GOT ANYTHING ON THIS FLAPOVER THE LOONY BIN ON THE MOOR
WHAT'S THAT?

OH, THEY'RE TRYING TO KEEP IT ALL VERY HUSH-HUSH. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE LIKE. BUT I RECKON THEY'VE GOT A RUNNER AGAIN.
WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT WAS ALL CONNECTED.
WHAT'S YOUR DETECTIVE'S NAME AGAIN?
CARPENTER
TOWN ELY GUAR DIAN
IT'S CARPENTER

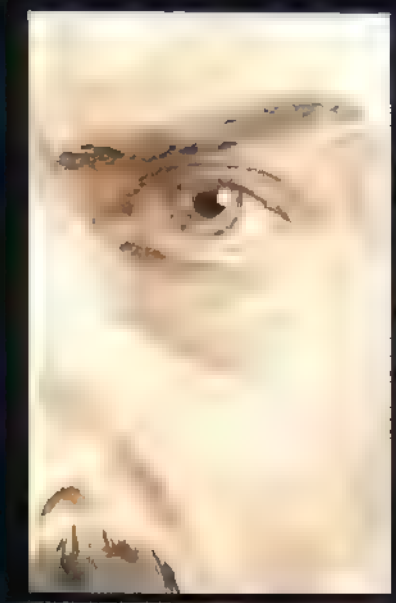
FED TO PIGS, I HEARD. OUR BRIAN SAID IT WAS LIKE A HORROR FILM
WHO'D DO THAT?
HE WON'T STOP AT ONE THEY NEVER DO, THESE MONSTERS
WELL, IT'S TERRIBLE, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER.
THAT DOCTOR BELL WAS A RIGHT OLD BASTARD, THOUGH I WON'T MISS HIM
HUSH!
WHERE ARE THE POLICE? THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
CAN'T TRUST ANYONE THESE DAYS.
MR PURVES!
MIND IF I HAVE A QUICK WORD?
I'LL HAVE TO BE VERY QUICK, DETECTIVE SERGEANT CARPENTER. I'M LATE AS IT IS FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING
THAT'S OKAY THIS WON'T TAKE LONG
YOU CAN DROP ME OFF JUST UP THE ROAD HERE

SO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
DOCTOR BELL HAD MOUNTED SOME KIND OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOUR RE-ELECTION, HADN'T HE? HE USED THE PHRASE "MORAL POVERTY" AFTER YOU WERE ACCUSED OF HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A PROSTITUTE.
HE EVEN CLAIMED THE GIRL WAS UNDERAGE FOR PART OF THE PERIOD OF THIS ALLEGED AFFAIR.
NOW, HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE!
THOSE CHARGES WERE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. BELL WAS... I MEAN, HE WAS PRACTICALLY AN ALCOHOLIC. IT WAS A CHEAP ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT ME
GRANTED, I WAS NO FRIEND OF BELL'S BUT, BY GOD... I MEAN, I'VE GIVEN YOU AS MUCH HELP AS I POSSIBLY CAN, CARPENTER. I DON'T EXPECT TO BE ACCUSED OF MURDER...
YOU SHOULD BE OUT THERE LOOKING FOR THE REAL KILLER
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING, MR. PURVES.
YOU CAN LET ME OFF HERE
THANKS FOR THE RIDE
AND YOUR TIME.
PAY!

THE MAYOR JUST CAME IN HERE..
YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN
I DIDN'T SEE HIM
S, please continue the message, ARRRRK!
A, yes, please cont nue, RRAAWK
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

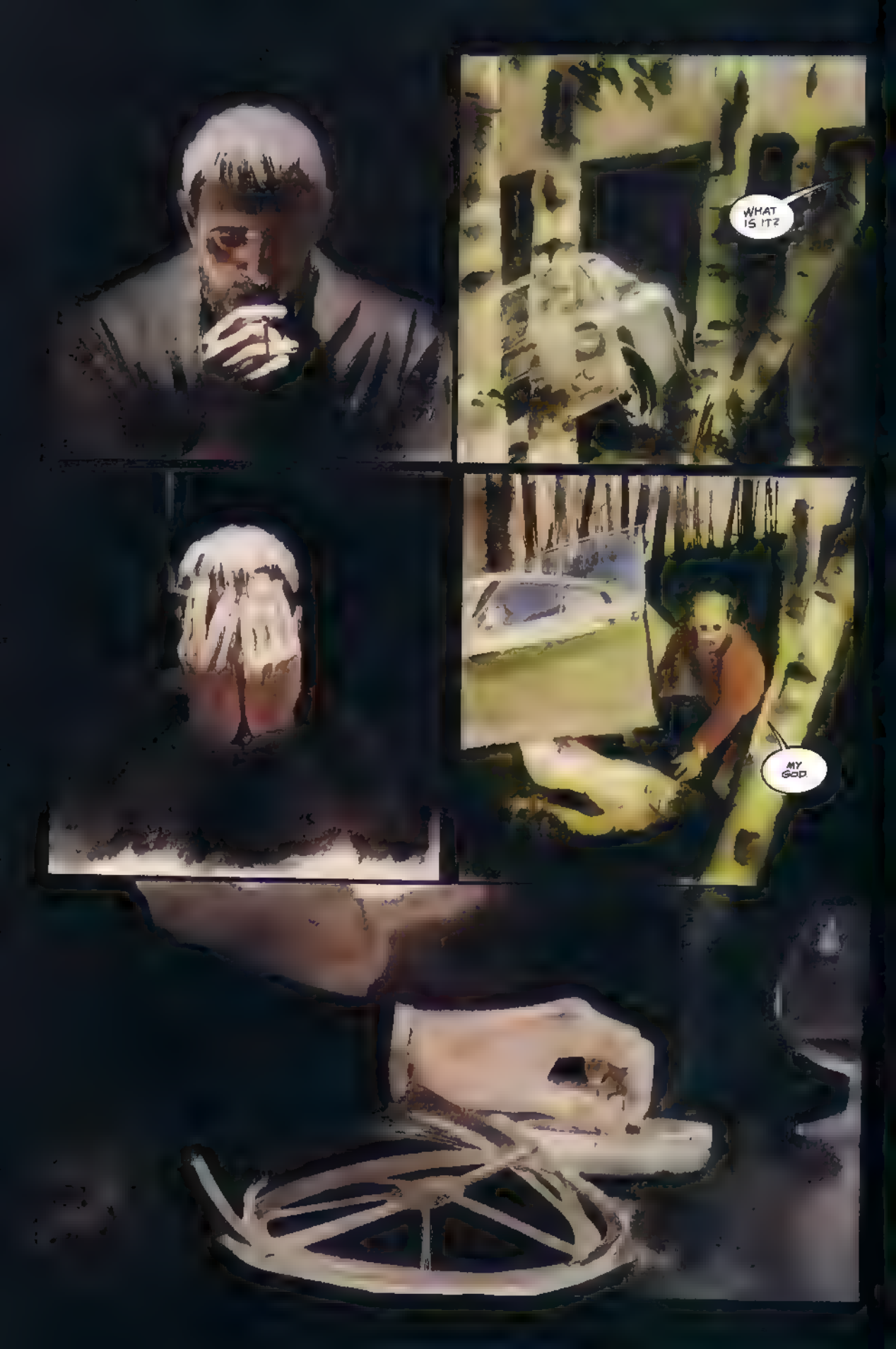
WELL, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
WHY DON'T YOU GO UPSTAIRS? TAKE YOUR PICK
R, ARRRK! please continue, A..
NN
YESSS
OH MY LOVE
MY DARLING

MMMM
GODDD.
MY LITTLE BABY BITCH
OH, THAT'S IT. YES
YESS
MY LOVE
HNN
OH, MY BITCH, MY DOLLY, MY DARLING.



NEVER GROW UP

KING!
HERE, KING! COME AWAY FROM THERE!
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT? COME ON!
WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?


WHAT IS IT?
MY GOD

I'VE BEEN ASKING AROUND.
IT TURNS OUT THAT DOCTOR BELL WASN'T A VERY POPULAR MAN
YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIM MUCH, DID YOU, REVEREND TILLEY?
IS THIS AN OFFICIAL INTERVIEW, DETECTIVE SERGEANT CARPENTER?
SURELY YOU DON'T CONSIDER ME A SUSPECT?
I HAVE TO CONSIDER EVERYONE A SUSPECT. IT'S MY JOB.
YOUR BALL'S HERE

NICE SHOT
I LIKE CRAZY GOLF
USELESS AT THE REAL THING, OF COURSE
I WANTED TO ASK YOU... YOU MUST BE AWARE OF THE...AH.. METAPHYSICAL OVERTONES OF THIS ENQUIRY.
THIS KILLING COULD BE SEEN AS... WELL, AS A SYMBOLIC ACT
SYMBOL C?
I'M NOT A METAPHYSICAL MAN I'M A MINISTER
THAT'S MY JOB

MY DEAR WIFE WAS TAKEN FROM ME SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. CANCER. THE DOCTORS DIDN'T CATCH IT IN TIME

I'VE SERVED GOD ALL MY LIFE. I THOUGHT THAT COUNTED FOR SOMETHING, BUT I PRAYED AND PRAYED FOR MY WIFE'S RECOVERY AND STILL SHE DIED
WE'RE DUMB FRIGHTENED ANIMALS, PETITIONING THE EMPTY SKY, AND IF I CAN HELP EASE THE FEAR OF MY FELLOW CREATURES BY LYING TO THEM ABOUT HEAVEN, THEN I SHALL

BUT WHY SHOULD I FEEL THE NEED TO KILL GOD WHEN HE IS SO CLEARLY ALREADY DEAD?

TELL ME THAT

MM?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

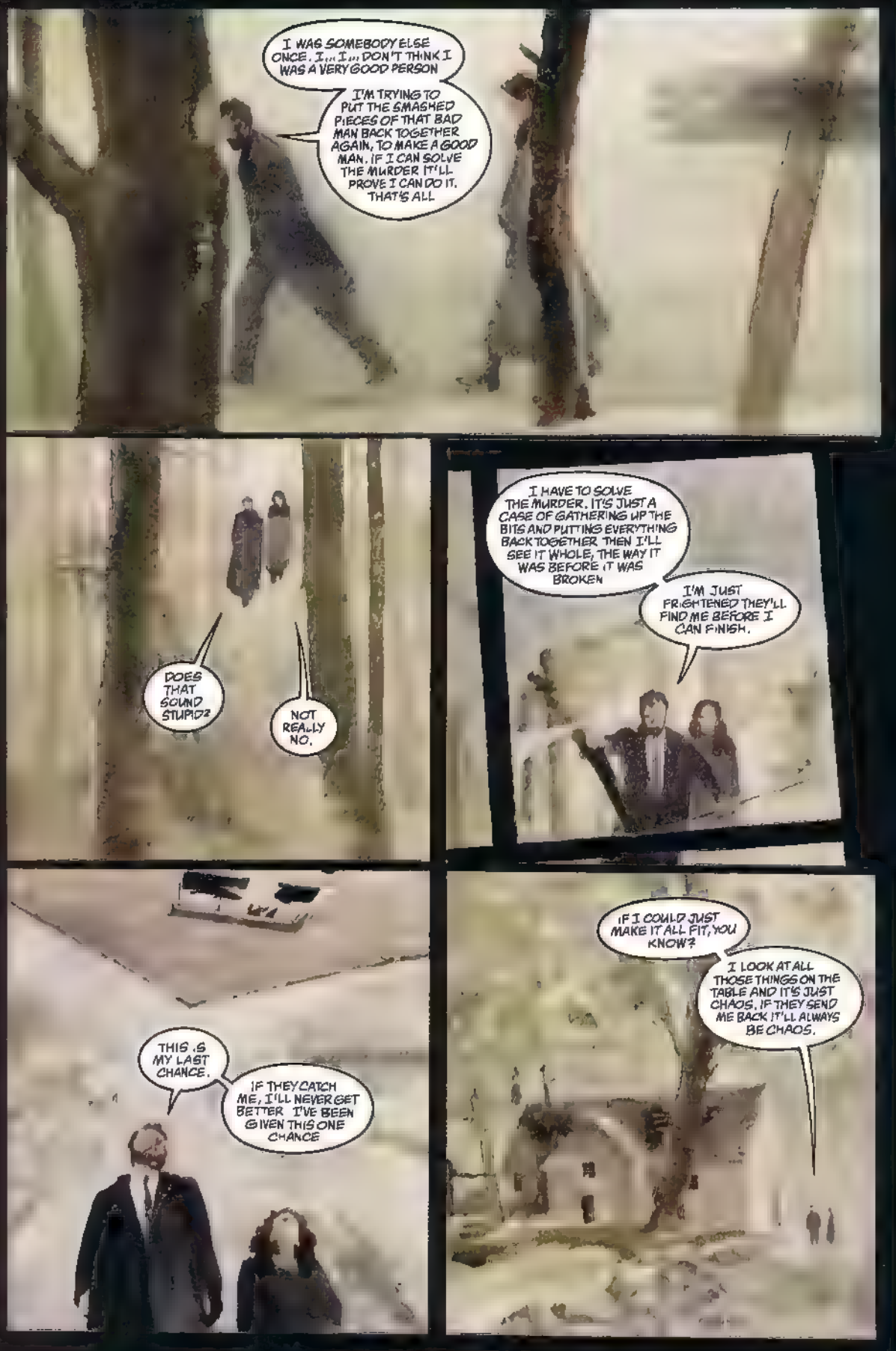
THE HOUSE .S EMPTY

EVERYONE'S BLAMING EVERYONE ELSE. SOMETHING LIKE THIS SEEMS TO BRING OUT THE ..., I DON'T KNOW... THE UGLINESS IN PEOPLE, THE SUSPICION.
HEAVENS! FOR ALL I KNOW, YOU KILLED THE DOCTOR.
IF HE HADN'T BEEN MURDERED, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A JOB TO DO NOW, WOULD YOU?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! IT'S ONLY A JOKE. WE ARE STILL ALLOWED OUR ..ITTLE JOKES, SURELY?
OH, I DO LIKE CRAZY GOLF
IN THIS GAME, NO ONE WINS, NO ONE LOSES
SYMBOLIC, PERHAPS
GOOD DAY, DETECTIVE SERGEANT CARPENTER.

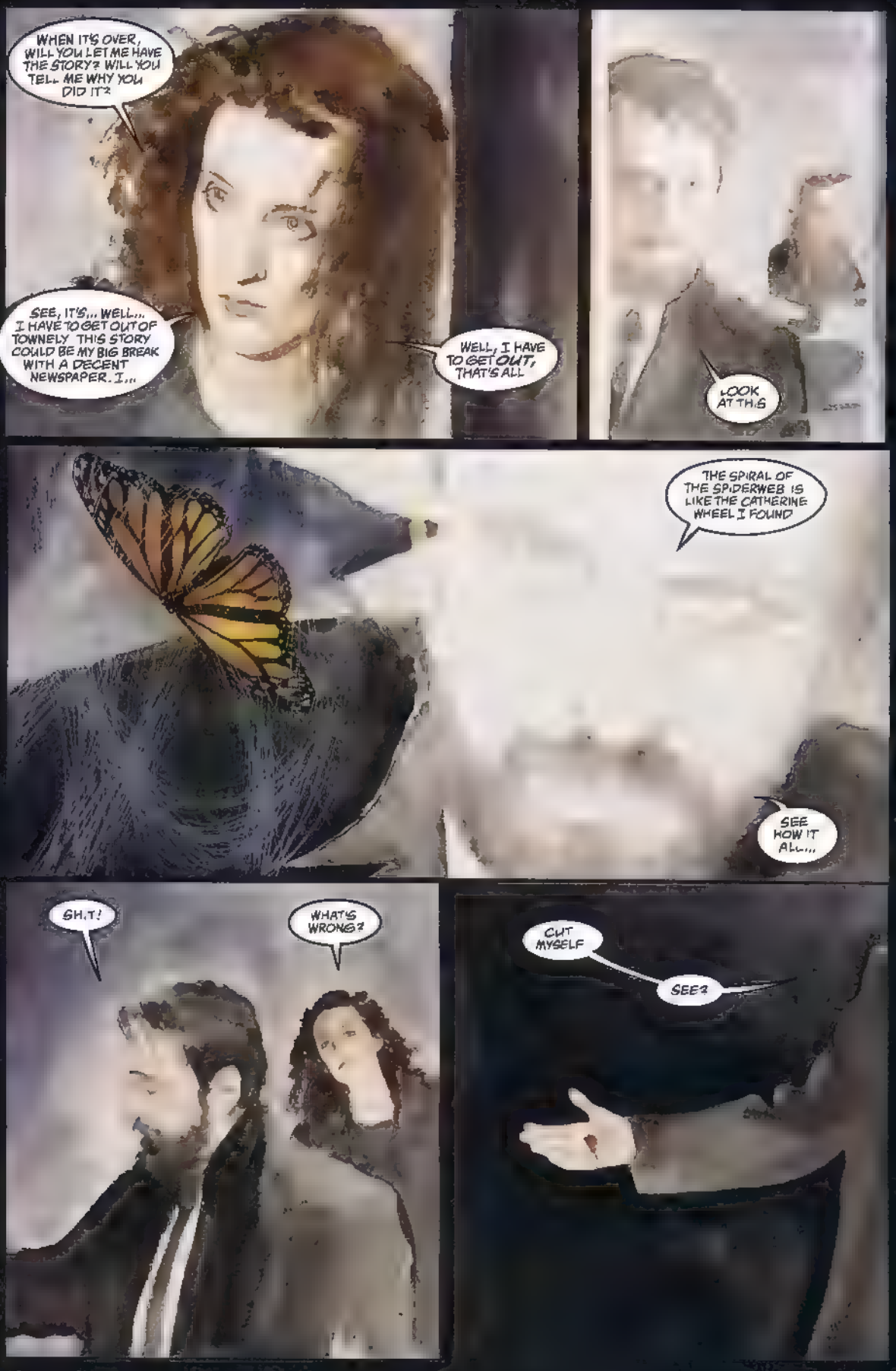
PUT NEW LOCKS ON THE DOOR
WELL, YOU HAVE TO, DON'T YOU?
YOU NEVER KNOW
THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE, ISN'T THERE?
THERE'S NOBODY WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS SHIT?
THIS IS FOR TELLING ON ME
I DIDN'T. I DIDN'T
I HAD TO HAVE IT DONE.
HE JUST SAID IT WASN'T HIS. CALLED ME A SLAG
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE. TOWNELY'S DEAD
EVERYTHING'S DEAD OR DYING

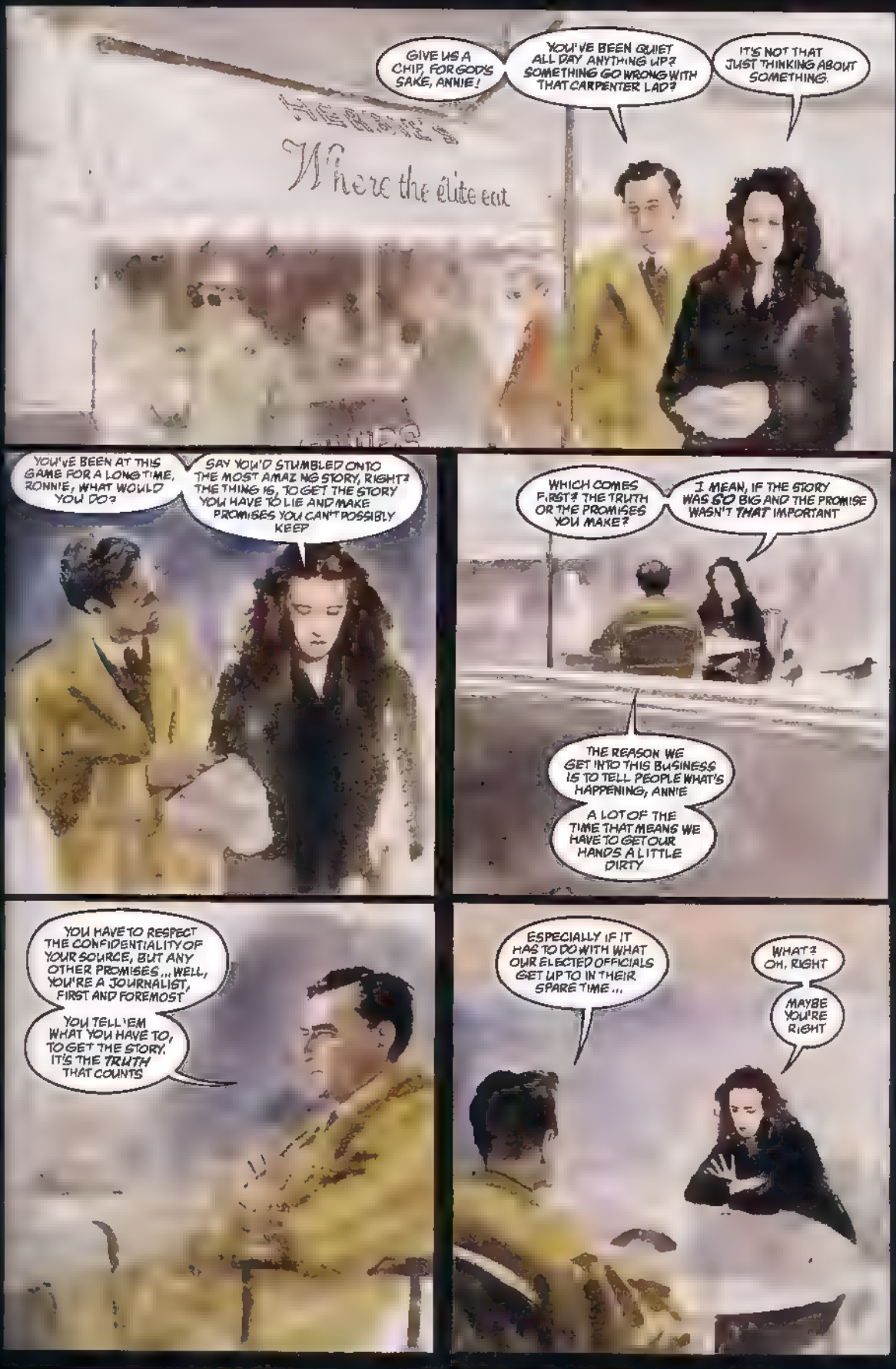
YOU'RE NOT SAFE ON THE STREETS, ARE YOU?
I DON'T OPEN MY DOOR TO ANYONE ANYMORE
KEEP A KNIFE UNDER MY PILLOW
JUST IN CASE
STUPID BLOODY BASTARD
COULD BE ANYBODY, COULDN'T IT?
IT'S THE FOREIGNERS I WOULDN'T PUT ANYTHING PAST THEM THEY'RE ALWAYS KILLING PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY IT'S A WAY OF LIFE
AND YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PICKLES AND SHOVE THEM UP YOUR ARSE!
WELL!
SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET THEM IN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN

...SO HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ME?
IT WASN'T REALLY HARD TO WORK OUT
THINGS ABOUT YOU... IT'S...
I HAVEN'T CHECKED UP ON YOU, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHY THEY PUT YOU AWAY.
THE POLICEMAN WAS DEAD WHEN I FOUND HIM. CARPENTER. HE'D CRASHED HIS CAR
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED EVERYTHING WAS MEANT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME, YOU KNOW BAD THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN PEOPLE'S LIVES. I HAD...
STOP!
STOP HERE!

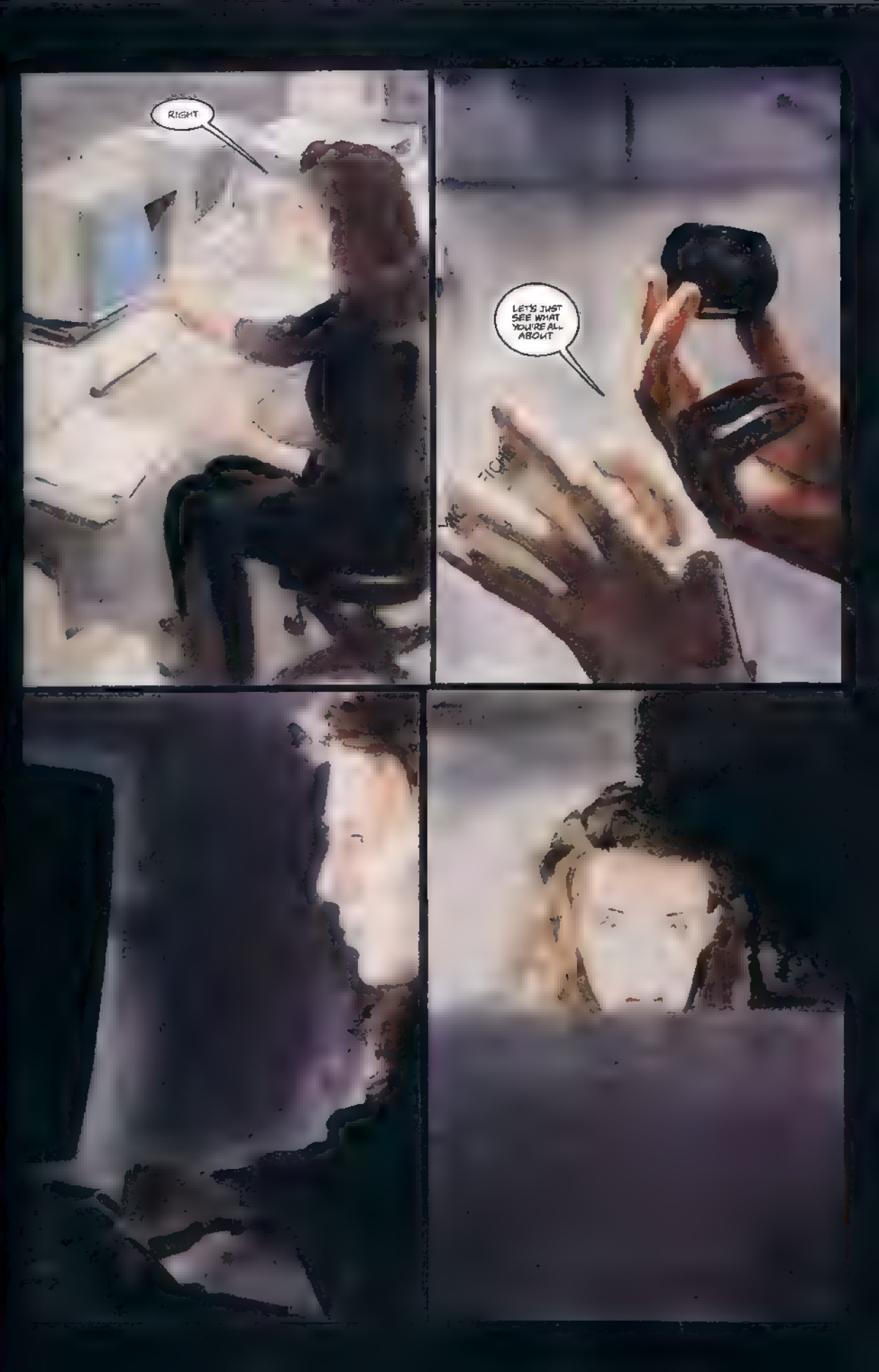

I WAS SOMEBODY ELSE ONCE. I... I... DON'T THINK I WAS A VERY GOOD PERSON
I'M TRYING TO PUT THE SMASHED PIECES OF THAT BAD MAN BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, TO MAKE A GOOD MAN. IF I CAN SOLVE THE MURDER IT'LL PROVE I CAN DO IT. THAT'S ALL
DOES THAT SOUND STUPID?
NOT REALLY NO.
I HAVE TO SOLVE THE MURDER. IT'S JUST A CASE OF GATHERING UP THE BITS AND PUTTING EVERYTHING BACK TOGETHER THEN I'LL SEE IT WHOLE, THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE IT WAS BROKEN
I'M JUST FRIGHTENED THEY'LL FIND ME BEFORE I CAN FINISH.
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE.
IF THEY CATCH ME, I'LL NEVER GET BETTER I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS ONE CHANCE
IF I COULD JUST MAKE IT ALL FIT, YOU KNOW?
I LOOK AT ALL THOSE THINGS ON THE TABLE AND IT'S JUST CHAOS, IF THEY SEND ME BACK IT'LL ALWAYS BE CHAOS.

SO WHY DID YOU WANT TO STOP HERE?
IT'S ANOTHER CLUE.
JUST PROMISE ME SOMETHING: YOU WON'T TRY TO FIND OUT ABOUT ME, WILL YOU? NOT UNTIL I'VE DONE WHAT I HAVE TO DO
WILL YOU PROMISE?
WEL... YES.. OF COURSE
I PROMISE
CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE
THE POLICE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW TO GO ABOUT THIS INVESTIGATION. THEY DON'T REALIZE WHAT IT ALL MEANS
I DO
YEAH?
SO WHO KILLED GOD?
I'LL KNOW SOON.
SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES I LOOK AT THE WORLD, YOU KNOW, AND WONDER IF GOD PUT US HERE TO BE THE INSTRUMENTS OF HIS DEATH. LIKE WE'RE HIS DEATH WISH
HE CAN'T STAND THE HORROR OF WHAT HE IS AND WHAT HE'S DONE. HE CAN'T FEEL PAIN OR REMORSE
HE... HE'S JUST WAITING AND PRAYING FOR US TO GROW STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL HIM AND MAKE HIM FEEL WHAT WE FEEL...


WHEN IT'S OVER, WILL YOU LET ME HAVE THE STORY? WILL YOU TELL ME WHY YOU DID IT?
SEE, IT'S... WELL... I HAVE TO GET OUT OF TOWN ELY. THIS STORY COULD BE MY BIG BREAK WITH A DECENT NEWSPAPER. I...
WELL, I HAVE TO GET OUT, THAT'S ALL
LOOK AT THIS
THE SPIRAL OF THE SPIDERWEB IS LIKE THE CATHERINE WHEEL I FOUND
SEE HOW IT ALL...
SH.T!
WHAT'S WRONG?
CUT MYSELF
SEE?

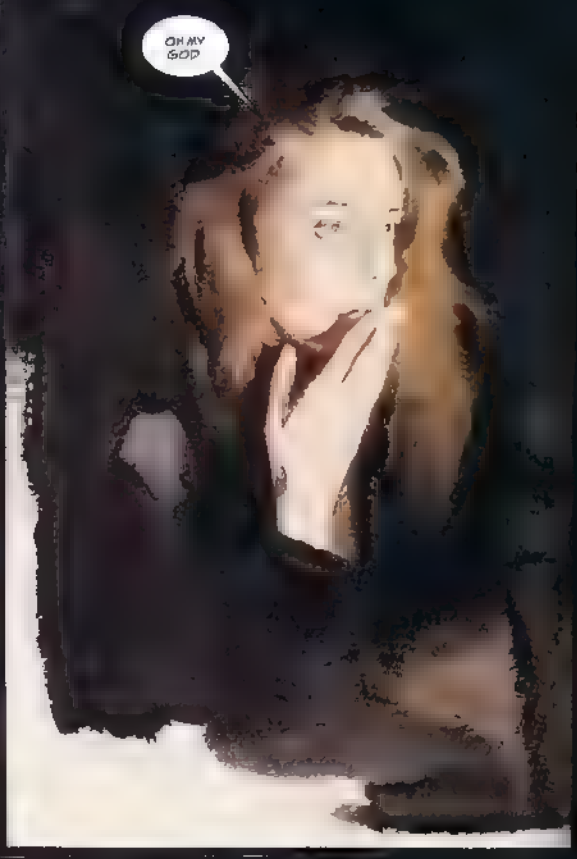

GIVE US A CHIP, FOR GOD'S SAKE, ANNIE!
YOU'VE BEEN QUIET ALL DAY. ANYTHING UP? SOMETHING GO WRONG WITH THAT CARPENTER LAD?
IT'S NOT THAT. JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING.
Where the elite eat
YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS GAME FOR A LONG TIME, RONNIE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
SAY YOU'D STUMBLED ONTO THE MOST AMAZING STORY, RIGHT? THE THING IS, TO GET THE STORY YOU HAVE TO LIE AND MAKE PROMISES YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KEEP
WHICH COMES FIRST? THE TRUTH OR THE PROMISES YOU MAKE?
I MEAN, IF THE STORY WAS SO BIG AND THE PROMISE WASN'T THAT IMPORTANT
THE REASON WE GET INTO THIS BUSINESS IS TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT'S HAPPENING, ANN'E
A LOT OF THE TIME THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO GET OUR HANDS A LITTLE DIRTY
YOU HAVE TO RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR SOURCE, BUT ANY OTHER PROMISES... WELL, YOU'RE A JOURNALIST, FIRST AND FOREMOST
YOU TELL 'EM WHAT YOU HAVE TO, TO GET THE STORY. IT'S THE TRUTH THAT COUNTS
ESPECIALLY IF IT HAS TO DO WITH WHAT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS GET UP TO IN THEIR SPARE TIME...
WHAT? OH, RIGHT
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT

IS IT OKAY IF I STAY ON FOR A BIT? USE THE MICROFICHE?
YOU'RE KEEN.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU LOCK UP BEHIND YOU.
ANYTHING I SHOULD KNOW?
NO, NOT YET. BUT YOU'LL BE FIRST WHEN THERE IS.
I KNOW YOU'RE KEEN TO MOVE ON, ANNIE THE GUARDIAN'S NOT MUCH OF A PAPER, BUT... WELL, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO THINK YOU'D GO BEHIND MY BACK ON ANYTHING
DON'T LIE TO ME
DO THE RIGHT THING, EH?
'NIGHT, LOVE
YEAH

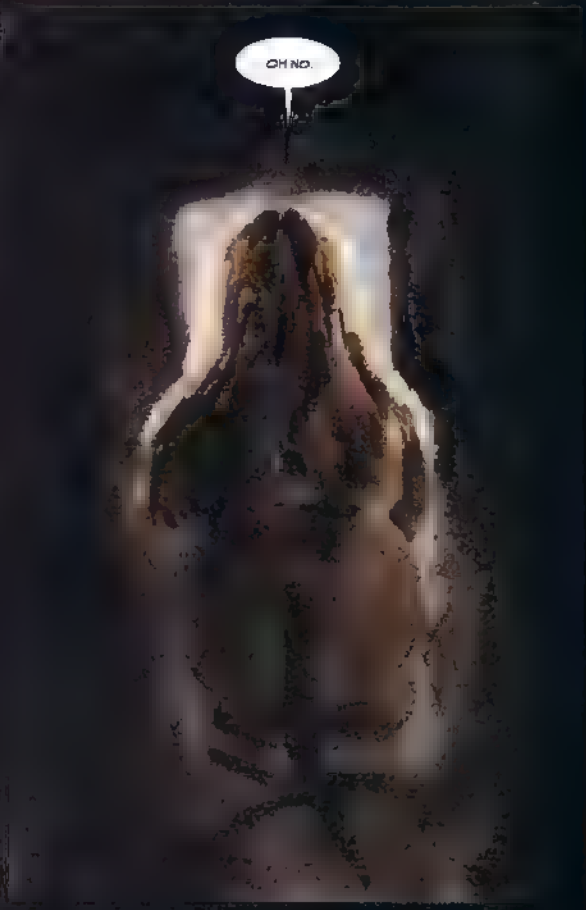

RIGHT
LET'S JUST SEE WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT

Man Charged With Brutal Rape and Murder of Little Sa

"Raincoat Man" is forme Psychiatric Patient



rder of Little Sarah stuns Townely

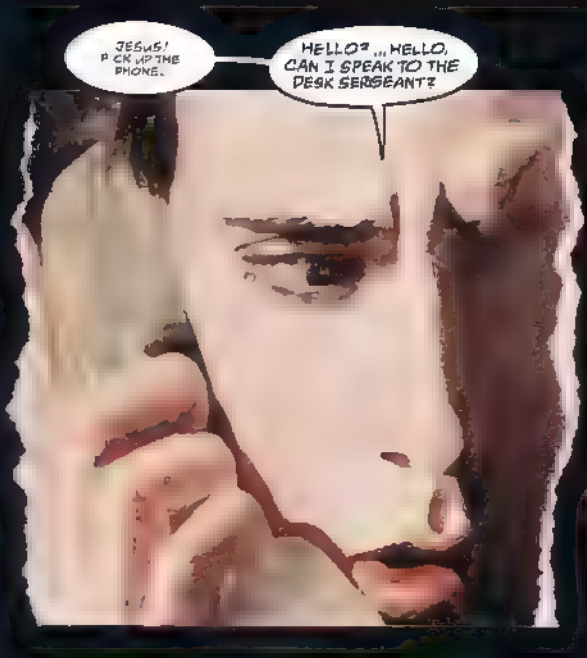


ISN'T THIS MARVELOUS? WE'VE PLANNED A BIG FIREWORKS PARTY FOR THIS EVENING, TO FORMALLY INAUGURATE THE NEW TESTAMENT PLAY CYCLE
THE STORY OF CHRIST IS SO... SO POSITIVE, DON'T YOU THINK? THE NATIVITY, THE CRUCIFIXION, THE HARROWING OF HELL, THE TRIUMPHANT RESURRECTION AND...
THE KILLER'S STILL OUT THERE, MR. PURVES,
I HOPE CHRIST HAS TAKEN OUT LIFE INSURANCE.
OH, I'M SURE ANY FIRM WOULD JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO INSURE A MAN WHO HAS ETERNAL LIFE, DON'T YOU?
REVEREND TILLEY, PLEASE!
I... AH... I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE HAD ANY LUCK YET, DETECTIVE [illegible]?
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

I MAY HAVE SOME REVELATIONS OF MY OWN TONIGHT
THE CROSS ISN'T HISTORICALLY ACCURATE, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S WHAT PEOPLE EXPECT, ISN'T IT?
MM
I'M JUST SURPRISED YOU'RE GOING AHEAD WITH IT.
EVERYONE'S PUT A LOT OF HARD WORK AND EFFORT INTO THIS. WE WON'T BE THREATENED OR DISCOURAGED
TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT TOWNELY'S *REALLY* MADE OF.
IT'S A RESURRECTION FOR US ALL, WE LIKE TO THINK
AND WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN THAT LAST TRUMP IS SOUNDED...
...AND WE ARE ALL CALLED TO JUDGMENT

YOU'RE LATE.
YES
I HAD SOMETHING TO DO.
I WAS LATE ANYWAY
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE CROWDS.
NO.
I'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO THINK TODAY
I FIGURED IT OUT
WHAT?
WELL, I'VE ALMOST FIGURED IT OUT THERE'S JUST ONE THING MISSING.
IT'S PERSPECTIVE, YOU SEE. YOU HAVE TO RISE UP ABOVE ALL THE BITS AND P.ECES AND YOU SEE THEM AS ONE WHOLE.
IT'S NOT CHAOS WHEN YOU SEE IT FROM THERE. IT'S ALL ONE TH NG, HIDDEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR NOSE. THE TRUTH
SORRY
MIND IF I MAKE A QUICK CALL?

NO.
GO AHEAD


JESUS! PICK UP THE PHONE.
HELLO? ... HELLO, CAN I SPEAK TO THE DESK SERGEANT?

IT'S ME AGAIN. YES. LOOK, THE MISSING MENTAL PATIENT'S HERE ... I'VE GOT HIM RIGHT HERE WITH ME AND HE'S POSING AS A POLICEMAN.
DANGEROUS? I DON'T KNOW! WELL, YOU TELL ME ... WHAT? ... I'LL TRY ... YES

IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT, ANNIE?
FINE

I DON'T LIKE CROWDS

CAN YOU FEEL IT?
IT'S LIKE ELECTRICITY, ANTICIPATION. THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR SOMETHING.
IT'S NOT FIREWORKS IT'S THE TRUTH; THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE WAITING FOR.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL THEM?
WHY DON'T YOU TELL THEM WHAT YOU DID TO SARAH DOWNING?
YOU BASTARD. YOU SICK, FILTHY BASTARD.
SORRY?
WHY DON'T YOU TELL THEM ABOUT LITTLE SARAH DOWNING? COME ON! THE TRUTH.
YOU FOLLOWED HER HOME FROM SCHOOL. THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY YOU KNOCKED ON THE DOOR THE NEIGHBORS REMEMBERED YOUR RAINCOAT.
WILL I TELL THEM?
HE KILLED A LITTLE GIRL!
HE RAPED HER IN HER OWN BEDROOM AND BATTERED HER TO DEATH.
SHE WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD! SARAH DOWNING!
DON'T

It's him!
He killed her!
Annie?
NOOOOOOOO!

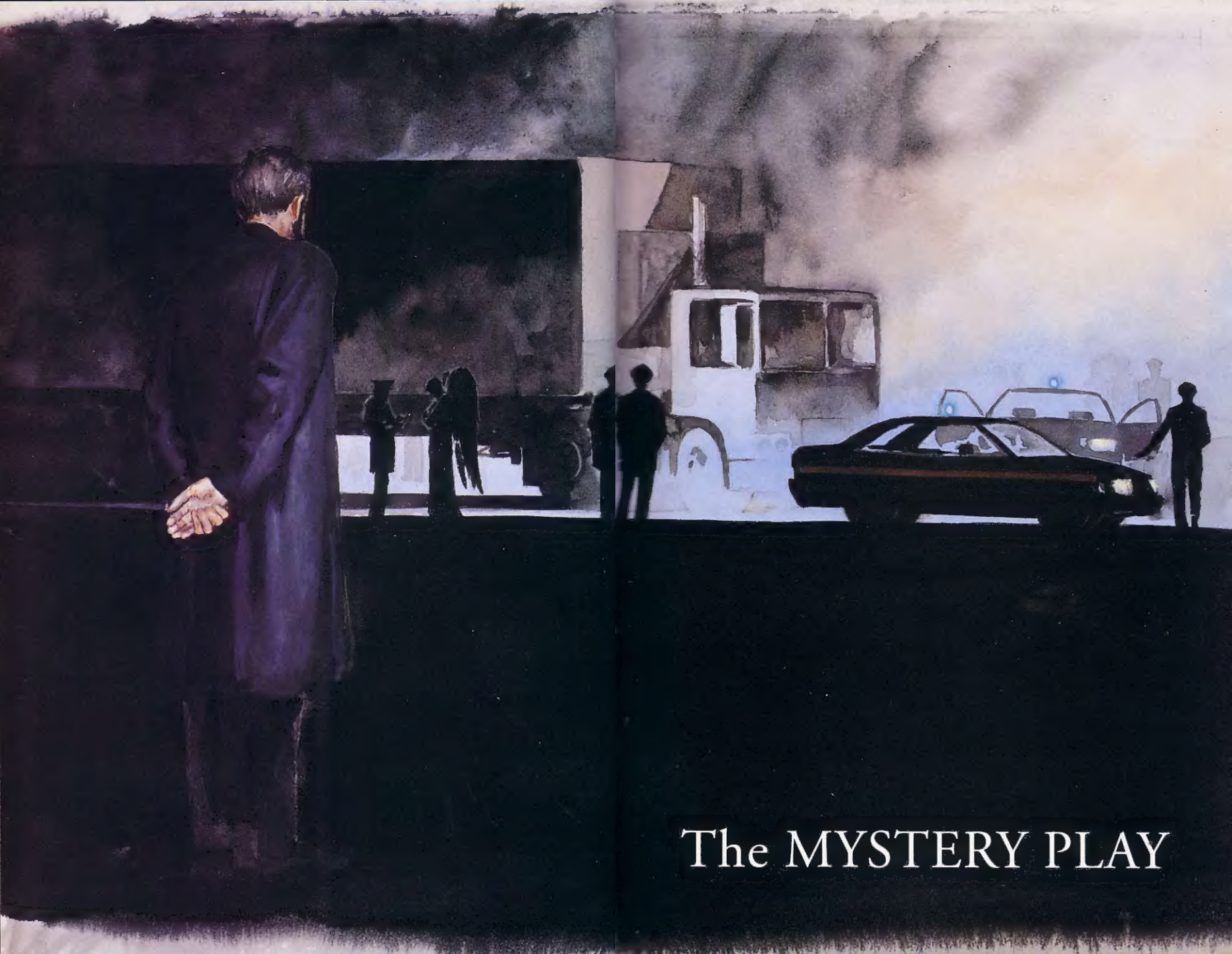
No, please! Not yet!
Hold him
Hold him down.
Please!
There
Now
ah
ah

Hurts it hurts
I'm sorry
Sorry

Listen to me just ..
I know
I know who did it
I know

TEN YEARS LATER:
...AND THAT'S IT, BASICALLY. THEY NEVER DID FIND OUT WHO DID IT.
PERHAPS IT WAS SUICIDE...
IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO. I PROBABLY HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING THAT WASN'T IN MY ARTICLES OR MY BOOK.
OF COURSE, THE INTERESTING THING WAS THAT THE JAPANESE OPENED THEIR FACTORY LATER THAT YEAR AND TOWNELY'S NOW PROSPERED QUITE AMAZINGLY.
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO BRING OUT IN THIS PLAY.
WHAT HAPPENED SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SORT OF CATHARTIC IN A WAY.
YES, WELL...
ANYWAY...THANKS FOR THE MEAL, ALAN. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME HAVING TO RUN OFF LIKE THIS BUT I HAVE AN EDITORIAL MEETING...
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE PLAY ON TELLY. I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE A DECENT ACTRESS PLAYING MY PART.
IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU. I'LL...
MISS?
DON'T FORGET YOUR COAT.
WHAT?
THAT'S NOT MY...
BUT IT HAS YOUR NAME INSIDE.
MISS WOOLF, YES?
IT'S YOUR COAT, MISS WOOLF.
SEE?
IT IS YOUR COAT.
YES.

YES.
I SUPPOSE IT IS.
FIN.



The MYSTERY PLAY

The MYSTERY PLAY

GRANT MORRISON JON J MUTH